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Forty-ninth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 73

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Austria, Ecuador, Japan and South Africa: draft resolution

Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/54 G of 8 April 1993 and 48/87 of 16 December 1993,

Recalling its decision 1/ of 14 September 1994,

Desiring to enhance the effectiveness of its First Committee to fulfil its role and responsibility in the sphere of disarmament and international security,

Stressing the need to organize the work of the First Committee in the most rational and effective way possible,

Recognizing the need to allow adequate time during the annual sessions of the First Committee to conduct intensive and focused consultations on the items under consideration in the First Committee,

Encouraged by the thematic approach adopted by the First Committee during the second phase of the work of its forty-ninth session,

1. Decides to adopt for the proceedings of the First Committee and pursuant to the thematic approach set out in paragraph 2 of General Assembly

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1/ See A/48/688/Add.1, para. 7.

resolution 48/87 a phased approach with respect to the items on the agenda of the Committee:

(a) General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items;

(b) Informal thematic discussion of specific items under consideration in the First Committee;

(c) Consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items;

(d) Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items;

(e) General debate, consideration of and action on draft resolutions submitted under the item "Question of Antarctica";

2. Decides also that the number of meetings during the regular session of the First Committee shall be recommended by the members of the Bureau of the First Committee after consultations with delegations and the Secretariat;

3. Requests the incoming Chairman of the First Committee to continue consultations on the further rationalization of the work and effective functioning of the Committee;

4. Urges the Secretary-General to provide, taking into account existing resource constraints, the appropriate means, additional conference space and resources to permit the implementation of the work programme for the fiftieth session of the First Committee;

5. Decides to review the question of further rationalization and improvement of the work of the First Committee at its fiftieth session.